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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A NETWORK HUB TO DIAGNOSE  
NETWORK OPERATION AND BROADCAST INFORMATION  
5 TO A REMOTE HOST OR MONITORING DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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10 A network hub in a communication network that acts as a  
server to network clients to push, or transmit, information  
regarding the state of local and remote devices and networks.  
The information can be one, or more, status information, which  
information can be one or more predefined fields in a frame,  
which represents a packet of data. In one embodiment, it is  
desirable that the frame be a "legitimate" Ethernet-type frame.  
15 The status field can be a "push"-Type status field. The push  
operation can be a unicast, a multicast, or a broadcast, or a  
hybrid transmission. The hub can be a switch, repeater, a  
bridge, a router, a gateway, or a hybrid thereof. Also, the hub  
according to the present invention can be an OSI Layer 2 device,  
20 an OSI Layer 3 device, or a hybrid thereof. It is desirable that  
the hub be devoid of a microprocessor. As described herein, the  
hub may have plural ports, for example, four, eight, or more  
ports.

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